

# H O L T C H A M B E R O F T R A D E

([www.holtchamber.org](http://www.holtchamber.org))

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 December in Byfords Wine Bar at 1800 hrs.

Committee:	John Lintott (Chairman)	Gresham's School	714621
	Martin Sanders (Treasurer)	Larking Gowen	712017
	Charles Butler	Butler's Pantry	711867
	Duncan Baker	Bakers & Larners of Holt	712244
	Caroline Carter	The Holt Chronicle	712177
	Len Casey	Guided Media	768156
	Joshua Dyball	Josh.biz	862610
	Sandra Taylor-Meeds	Budgens	713734
	Lynda Mossman (Membership Sec)	Past Caring	713771
	David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

**PRESENT:** John Lintott (Chairman), , Esme Bagnall-Oakeley, Duncan Baker, Charles Butler, Caroline Carter, Di Dann, Joshua Dyball, Lindsay Furniss, Zoë Ford, Mark Humberstone, Chris Lambert, David Makinson, J Pallister, Rodney Smith, Sarah Tribe.

New members, Hilary Harmer of Pollard & Read and Penny Lukins of Peccadillos, were welcomed to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES:** Sue Catt, Lynda Mossman, Martin Sanders, Sandra Taylor-Meeds, Lara Williamson.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** These were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**MATTERS ARISING:** All matters arising were covered in the agenda.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Income for the period 1.2.11 to 20.11.11 stood at £3,897.43 with expenditure for the same period of £2,444.19. This included a donation of £1,200 towards the Christmas Lights and costs of £79.99 on planters. The current year surplus stood at £1,453.24 with a closing balance at the bank of £4,214.30. Five membership cheques had been received this month and attempts had been made by those members present to chase up other outstanding membership renewals. It was agreed that the Chamber would fund the production of Christmas Lights Sponsorship stickers which could be displayed in the windows of traders who had supported the Christmas Lights for 2011.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** New members included Jeremy Barlow and Nana Naboo. It was also hoped that Back to the Garden would be renewing their membership in the near future.

**TOWN COUNCIL REPORT:** Items on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting included the Thornage Road car park. Arrangements for a forthcoming meeting with key personnel at Norfolk County Council would now be followed up by Di Dann following the recent ill health of John Perry-Warnes. Graham Chapman had submitted witness statements to Norfolk County Council regarding a Right of Way from Thornage Road to Valley Lane. Unfortunately Di Dann had been informed by Councillor C Jordan that the process to investigate this claim could take anything up to 10 years. As Norfolk County Council was one of the adjacent landowners, who would have to be consulted, they would have plenty of opportunity to delay the process themselves, should they so wish. There is a proposal that the parking levy at three local towns considered to be 'wealthier' (including Holt) would increase. This would be yet another move that would be detrimental to local traders. The Town Council will write to object to this proposal. Holt Vision – from Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December display panels will be on view at the Community Centre/Holt Library and the community is encouraged to put forward their own ideas. Current suggestions include development of a market in Fish Hill and a more café-style culture in parts of the town. Discussion will also take part on the HO1 planning application and the possibility of improved section 106 benefits including improved play areas, and walking access into town from the new development. Discussions were continuing between Tim Schofield, a Director of Norwood Homes, the Town Council and the Holt Society/Museum Trust regarding development of the Thaxters' site. Potentially an application may be put in during February 2012.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** Esme and the lights committee were congratulated on producing yet another successful evening – this time with much improved weather! Although the footfall in the Community Centre had been lower than expected, in every other aspect the night had gone really well with a high attendance. Simon Gresham had prepared an analysis of the current situation with the lights committee and possible changes for the future. All areas of the evening are now successfully covered by individual members of the committee but there is still a problem with the fundraising and it has been decided that the best way forward would be to

form a separate fundraising committee. Costs were up this year (increased VAT, more add-ons, entertainments, and replacement lights) and funding down. In fact the event almost did not happen. It has always been a problem where committee members who do not live or trade in the town attempt to raise funds from local traders. If local traders joined the new committee they would be able to concentrate on their own section of the town where they traded and would be far less likely to meet the opposition sometimes experienced currently. If a reasonable number of traders joined the new committee, the task need not be at all arduous. PLEASE, IF YOU CAN HELP, CONTACT LESLEY, ESME BAGNALL-OAKLEY OR A MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER OF TRADE OR LIGHTS COMMITTEES. A new treasurer will also be needed from January 2012. If you know of a retired bookkeeper or accountant who might be willing to help, please let us know. The sale of Christmas cards is going quite well – please support.

**THORNAGE ROAD CAR PARK:** It was agreed that members would be encouraged to support Jono Read's campaign 'Stop the Stalemate'. It was vital that, whatever their particular interest, local traders were seen to be acting in unison over this matter. Considerable discussion took place on this topic once again. Several members felt that contact should be made directly with the Chairman of Norfolk County Council but it was pointed out that it was not possible to just bypass the portfolio holder, Councillor Jordan, who has a responsibility to seek maximum income from the proceedings. Equally the footpath either *is* or *is not* a public right of way - compromise is not viable option. Another route would be to contact the ombudsman or to consider creating the car park and re-routing access avoiding the footpath. The matter would be raised at the next town council meeting (12th December 2011) when Di Dann would seek the authority to make further contact with Norfolk County Council to ask why they will not come to the table in January to settle the matter finally. In the meantime PLEASE WRITE TO NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL TO EXPRESS YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CAR PARK. The Chairman will write to Councillor Jordan to ask him to come to our next meeting to speak to members.

**HOLT VISION:** Displays boards will be on view until 18<sup>th</sup> December in Holt Library/Community Centre. Members are encouraged to add their views and ideas for improvements.

**PIGEONS:** These are presenting a health hazard. Although a permanent solution is necessary, initially it was suggested that a hawk, or recording of a hawk, should be used to encourage the pigeons to move to another area. This would need to be done before lethal methods could be employed by pest controllers. The Pigeon Club is looking into all possible alternatives to solve the problem and will report back to Di Dann in January. It was pointed out that certain properties were neglecting maintenance issues like unblocking gutters, etc. Letters will go out to those premises with major problems.

**BRININGHAM BENEFICE AND AMAZON:** David Makinson has now received a very sympathetic letter from the Bishop and is satisfied with the actions taken in response to his complaint on behalf of local traders.

**'GLAD ABOUT THE GLAVEN' – 21st July 2012 – HOLT HALL:** Plans are progressing and traders in the town, with an environmental connection, are encouraged to support this initiative.

**CHRISTMAS OPENING:** Several traders including Moochi Modo are opening from 5 – 8pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Details have been posted on the chamber website. The late night opening will also be advertised on North Norfolk Radio.

**SITE HO1 – OFF WOODFIELD ESTATE:** Concerns regarding the development have been raised by residents in Cley Road. The Town Council will request that the £30,000 which is due to be paid to North Norfolk District Council should be paid directly to Holt Town Council so that funds can be used to benefit Holt.

**RENT REVIEWS:** John has received a letter/handout from Malcolm Vincent which can be copied to any members involved in rent reviews.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Please support the '**cribs around the world**' event at the Community Centre from 16-18<sup>th</sup> December. **New businesses** – CoCo's have opened and Normal for Norfolk have re-opened. Lustre and Glaze is to change its name to Hurn & Hurn and will be adding a new internet business situated in the adjoining premises. **Flags down Bull Street** – complaints have been received regarding the over-sized banners outside Morston Country Sports. Assurances have been given that these are only temporary and will be removed by 14<sup>th</sup> January. An Enforcement Officer will visit if they are not removed at this time. Charles Butler pointed out that Norfolk County Council would be closing the High Street for re-surfacing during the February half-term. Surprise was expressed that no attempts had been made to negotiate a suitable date with local traders. The half-terms were considered to be valuable trading periods and Di Dann agreed to raise this at the next Town Council meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** Please note change of usual date. The next meeting will take place in Byfords Wine Bar on **11<sup>th</sup> January, 2012** at 6 pm.